Inside Wallops

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Representatives of the Senior Partners in the new Wallops Flight Facility Partnership met Jan. 22 to recommend approval of the Partnership Charter. The mission of the Partnership is to set policies and implement plans to sustain and promote Wallops as a multi-agency national resource; facilitate execution of individual agency missions; jointly establish shared services; ensure equitable distribution of business costs; and develop new business at Wallops is consistent with the vision of the Partnership. Seated (from left to right) are Arnold Torres, Director Suborbital Projects and Operations; Judy Bruner, Goddard Space Flight Center; CDR. Richard White, Senior Officer Present; and Billie Reed, Executive Director Virginia Space Flight Center. Photo by Tom Burton.

Educator Named Astronaut Candidate

In a decision that re-emphasizes the importance of NASA's strong commitment to education and its unique position to advance the Nation's goals to improve science, mathematics, and technology education, the Agency has determined that it is appropriate to include educator mission specialists in the astronaut corps.

Barbara Morgan, an elementary school teacher from McCall, ID, was asked to join the next astronaut candidate class as a mission specialist, and she has accepted. Morgan was named a backup candidate for the NASA Teacher in Space Project in 1985.

In addition to meeting the astronaut selection requirements, mission specialists with education and teaching backgrounds in science, mathematics and technology will be selected and trained in the astronaut corps. These mission specialists will carry out educational programs in addition to their other assigned flight duties.

In Memory

Jan. 27, 1967 - Apollo 1 - Astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Robert B. Chaffee and Edward H. White, II die in capsule fire during countdown test.

Jan. 28, 1986 - Space Shuttle Challenger (51L) explodes 73 seconds after liftoff. All seven crew members perish. Francis R. Scobee, Michael J. Smith, Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald E. McNair, Gregory Jarvis, and Christa McAuliffe.

Mission To Planet Earth Enterprise Name Changed To Earth Science

NASA has renamed the Mission to Planet Earth enterprise the Earth Science enterprise. The Earth Science enterprise is one of the four strategic enterprises of the Agency, responsible for a long-term, coordinated research effort to study the total Earth system and the effects of natural and human-induced changes on the global environment.

In announcing the change of name, Acting Associate Administrator for Earth Science William Townsend said, "We feel that 'Earth Science' more clearly conveys to the American people the goals of our program, and more directly focuses on the research that we're conducting. 1998 will include several major launches in the enterprise, including the first Earth Observing System missions, and we are pleased to enter this era with the new name."

The goals of the Earth Science enterprise are to expand scientific knowledge of the Earth system using NASA's unique vantage points of space, aircraft, and in situ platforms, creating an international capability to forecast and assess the health of the Earth system; to widely disseminate information about the Earth system; and to enable the productive use of Earth science results and related technology in the public and private sectors.

Space Concert Scheduled

The Wallops Flight Facility, in conjunction with the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra, will present a unique concert Jan.31 and Feb.1, combining two of humanity's greatest achievements — science and music.

"Contact 2001.....The Symphony and Science in the 21st Century" will be held from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m., Jan. 31, with the concert performance beginning at 7 p.m., and 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Feb. 1, with the concert performance at 2 p.m., in Maggs Gymnasium at Salisbury State University.

The gymnasium will be transformed into a planetarium/amphitheater in which children of all ages will be invited to take an up-close look at a symphony in action and some of the world's most advanced technology that will lead us into the 21st century.

The orchestra, accompanied by the Greater Salisbury Youth Orchestra, will perform appropriate music such as "2001: A Space Odyssey"; music from "Star Wars," "Star Trek," and "E.T."; and Gustav Holst's "The Planets." More surprises follow when the orchestra presents its grand finale.

NASA exhibits will focus on flight vehicles and Earth and Space Science. In addition to a 30-foot inflatable Space Shuttle, a major focus will be on the investigations of Mars including a full-scale model of the Sojourner and a panorama of Martian surface, viewable with 3-D glasses. The EXCEL Science Interactive Museum will provide several hands-on exhibits focusing on space flight. In addition, the film "The Dream is Alive" will be shown before and after each concert.

Other sponsors include SSU, Delarmva Power, and Salisbury Music and Instrument Repair.

Admission (to help defray expenses of the orchestra) will be $2 for children 18 and under and $5 for adults. Tickets will be available only at the door before the concerts.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the NASA exhibits Friday evening Jan. 30 and to take them down immediately following the Feb. 1 performance. Also people are needed for both performances to help staff the exhibits. Anyone wishing to volunteer their services may call x1579.

Get Ready for Winter Roads

Your vehicle needs extra care during the winter. Check the antifreeze in the radiator, replace old windshield wiper blades for new ones that won't streak, and replace old batteries before they get a chance to fail.

Keep tires in prime condition. Rotate them according to the schedule in your vehicle owner's manual and replace them when they show wear. Although chains can be of help in a heavy snow, they might be against the law in your community. Check with local officials.

Before you leave the driveway, make sure there is plenty of freeze-resistant windshield-washer fluid in the reservoir. You might keep an extra bottle of washer fluid in your trunk. Road salt and muck make a mess on your windshield. Clear ice and snow from headlights and taillights before getting under way. Scrape and defrost the windshield and side-view mirrors at the same time. You'll need to see and be seen.

Keep the vehicle full of fuel. This not only helps guard against moisture that can produce ice in the gas line, but also reduces chances of running dry in a storm induced traffic jam or stuck in a snow drift.

The onset of snow and icy conditions requires two adjustments. First, ease off the gas. Second, you should at least double the normal distance between your car and the one ahead. Learning how to apply brakes on winter roads can mean the difference between avoiding a crash or winding up in the trunk of a total stranger.

If you have an anti-lock braking system, maintain hard pressure on the pedal and let the computerized system do the necessary pumping. With a non-anti-locking system squeeze the brake pedal down until you feel the brakes are about to lock up and let off the pedal. Squeeze again. With the squeeze braking technique, you can feel the wheels start to lock up.

Follow your instincts. If visibility or traction is so poor that your best judgment tells you it's not safe to continue, it probably isn't. Safely pull to the side of the road and stay put until conditions improve.

A cellular telephone is a great safety investment. They can provide a crucial lifeline between a driver in trouble and help. Have winter-storm essentials stored in the trunk. An extra coat, hat, gloves and a blanket, a flashlight and a shovel are a minimum necessity. A large bag of sand or cat litter can help provide traction out of ice and snow. If room permits, carry a first-aid kit, pocketknife, transistor radio, road flares, and high calorie, nonperishable foods such as nuts and raisins.

Bob Hickman (far right) with CSC Continuous Improvement Award winners (left to right) Les Brimer, Jay Scott, Gerry McIntire, and Julian Gumayagay

Computer Sciences Corporation Makes Continuous Improvement Awards

Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) has presented six employees with awards for significant continuous improvement efforts at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility for 1996 and 1997.

According to Bob Hickman, CSC, Wallops Operations Manager, "CSC implemented its formal Continuous Improvement Program (CI) several years ago and, as a result, saved hundreds of thousands of dollars for our NASA customer."

The following individuals earned awards for their CI plans during the period January through June 1997.

The first place winner was Jay Scott. His suggestion will improve the efficiency of manufacturing identical payload parts by analyzing current and future manufacturing requirements.

Second place winner, Gerry McIntire, recommended refurbishing a surplus Dobson dome rather than purchasing a new dome. The dome will be used in the acquisition of ozone data using a Dobson Spectrophotometer on the Wallops mainland.

Les Brimer won third place for development of a generic slaving system which will be configurable through setup files. This innovation will be used in the NASA Ground Network.

Awards were presented in 1996 to:
-Julian Gumayagay for recommending the use of a drum skimmer to separate oil/water condensate and reduce the volume of waste oil disposal;

- Marvin Bunting for implementation of a tracking and database program to satisfy ISO 14000 management standard. The system enables active cross referencing of documents;

- Eric Johnson for the inclusion of a master component list in the payload wiring books.

Daytona 500 Party

Drop the green flag on the "98" season.

February 15, 1998
Bldg. F-3

11 a.m. until 1 hour after the race. For further information call Charlie Randall, x1890

Lunchtime Tax Seminar

January 27, 1998
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Building E-2 Conference Room

Larry Lees will answer your tax questions, give some tips and review the new tax regulations.

Valentine's Day Party & Spaghetti Dinner

February 13, 1998
Bldg. F-3
6 p.m. until ?

DJ and dancing after dinner. For further information call Jan Neville, x1526.

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